

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12

EUR-12 NEA-11 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 OMB-01 OIC-02 HEW-06 HUD-02 AGRE-00 COME-00

/131 W

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R 102004Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1270

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, AORG, UN

SUBJECT: 64TH SESSION ECOSOC - RESTRUCTURING

REF: USUN 01706

1. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE APRIL 26 AND 26 CONSIDERED SYG'S PROGRESS REPORT (E/1978/28) ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ANNEXED TO GA RESOLUTION 32/197 AS THESE CONCERN RESTRUCTURING OF THE SECRETARIAT. PAPER WAS INTRODUCED BY DAVIDSON WHO SUMMARIZED ITS MAIN POINTS.

2. DURING THE ENSUING DISCUSSION SPEAKERS (A) WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT OF DADZIE AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL; (B) EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE TO BE DEVELOPED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL SINCE THESE WOULD ESTABLISH THE FORMAL CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH HE WOULD BE WORKING TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF HIS OFFICE SET FORTH IN PARA. 64 OF THE ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 32/197 AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE DG SHOULD BE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN DECISIONS ON RESTRUCTURING OF THE SECRETARIAT; (C) NOTED THAT THE DEVOLUTION OF FURTHER RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS WAS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF RESTRUC-
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TURING AND LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE STUDIES OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE CAPACITY AND RESOURCES OF THE COMMISSIONS TO ABSORB SUCH ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD; (D) LOOKED FORWARD TO A FURTHER REPORT OF THE SYG FOR THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF ECOSOC IN 1978 AND A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION AT THAT TIME.

3. IN THE COURSE OF COMMENTING ON THE SYG'S REPORT JAMAICA (NOT SPEAKING FOR THE G-77) (A) EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH THE TITLE GIVEN TO RIPERT'S DEPARTMENT IN THE SYG'S BULLETIN ST/SGB/161, CHARACTERIZING IT AS A "SYMBOLIC RETENTION OF THE PAST"; (B) QUESTIONED THE ALLOCATION TO RIPERT'S DEPARTMENT OF THE FUNCTION DESCRIBED IN PARA. 2 (F) OF ST/SGB/161 ("TO ASSIST . . . IN COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEWS OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM"), ARGUING THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE TO ASSIGN THIS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AS THE LEAD SECRETARIAT UNIT FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND (C) CALLED FOR FASTER MOVEMENT ON FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, SINCE THE IDEA OF DECENTRALIZATION WAS NOT NEW. FRG IN COMMENT ON JAMAICAN POINT (B) EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEWS OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES COULD NOT BE DIVORCED FROM THE PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING PROCESS WHICH WAS AN INTEGRAL FUNCTION OF RIPERT'S DEPARTMENT. FRANCE, IN RESPONSE TO JAMAICAN POINT (A) OBSERVED THAT RESTRUCTURING RESOLUTION REPRESENTED A DIFFICULT COMPROMISE RECONCILING DIFFERENT VIEWS AND THAT THE SYG HAD SUCCEEDED IN SEPARATING TWO PREVIOUSLY CLOSELY LINKED FUNCTIONS INTO TWO DEPARTMENTS WITHOUT CAUSING TRAUMA, AND IMPLIED THAT SYG'S DECISIONS TO DATE IN RESPECT OF SECRETARIAT RESTRUCTURING SHOULD NOT BE TAMPERED WITH.

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4. SOVIET UNION MADE STRONG STATEMENT CALLING FOR IMPROVED SOCIALIST COUNTRY REPRESENTATION AT THE HIGHER LEVELS OF THE SECRETARIAT (A PITCH FOR ONE OF THE ASG POSTS IN RIPERT'S DEPARTMENT) AND FOR "SERIOUS ATTENTION" TO THIS MATTER BY THE SYG "BECAUSE OTHERWISE THE NIEO COULD NOT BECOME A REALITY".

5. IN CLOSING REMARKS DAVIDSON STATED THAT EVERY CARE WAS TAKEN TO CONSULT NEW DG ON THE CONTENTS OF THE SYG'S THREE BULLETINS THUS FAR ISSUED ON SECRETARIAT RESTRUCTURING (ANNEX TO E/1978/28) AND ON THE PREPARATION OF THE SYG'S PROGRESS REPORT. FURTHER, DG WOULD BE ABLE TO ADVISE SYG DIRECTLY AS REGARDS DEVELOPMENT OF HIS OWN TERMS OF REFERENCE. AS FOR TITLE OF RIPERT'S DEPARTMENT, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED UPON BY SYG HIMSELF. AS FOR ALLOCATION OF POSTS AND FUNDS TO THE NEW DEPARTMENTS IT WAS HOPED TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS DURING MAY WHEN THE SYG WOULD HAVE PROPOSALS IN THIS REGARD READY FOR ACABQ CONSIDERATION. THE SYG WOULD, HOWEVER, REQUIRE GUIDANCE ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRECISE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN LIGHT OF THE PROPO-

SALS TO FURTHER DECENTRALIZE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS. AS FOR THE QUESTION OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REVIEWS OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES THE DEPARTMENT FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION WOULD CLEARLY BE INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH EXERCISE. HOWEVER, IT WAS FELT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS WITH ITS RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING WOULD BE EXPECTED DIRECTLY TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL IN

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CARRYING OUT SUCH REVIEWS, TO THE EXTENT REQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL. DAVIDSON ALSO SAID THAT SYG WOULD WELCOME A DEFINITIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE MEANING OF THE WORDS CONTAINED IN RECOMMENDATION 62 OF THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING WHICH CALL ON HIM TO "DEPLOY THE FUNCTION IN PARA 61 (F) TO THE CLUSTERS OF FUNCTIONS DEFINED IN PARAS. 61 (A) AND (B) OR 61 (C) AND (D) RESPECTIVELY ON THE BASIS OF THE SUBSTANTIVE, PRACTICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED". FINALLY, DAVIDSON PROMISED TO BRING SOVIET STATEMENT TO SYG'S ATTENTION.

6. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON APRIL 26 ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS DRAFT DECISION FOR SUBMISSION TO PLENARY TAKING NOTE OF SYG'S PROGRESS REPORT.

7. PLENARY ON MAY 4 ADOPTED WITHOUT A VOTE TWO DECISIONS ON RESTRUCTURING (SEE E/1978/67): (A) THE DECISION TO ENTRUST THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WITH THE PREPARATION OF A NEW WORKING PAPER ON RESTRUCTURING OF ECOSOC (SEE REFTTEL) AND (B) THE DECISION TO TAKE NOTE OF

THE SYG'S REPORT WITH THE ADDITION OF A PHRASE WHICH LOOKS
FORWARD TO RECEIVING AT THE COUNCIL'S 65TH SESSION A MORE
DETAILED REPORT ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SECRETARIAT IN
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FOLLOW-UP TO E/1978/28 (OPERATIVE PARA. 6 GA RES 32/197).

8. DATES IN PARA. 1 OF THIS TELEGRAM SHOULD BE APRIL 25
AND 26. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 2729484
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: 64TH SESSION ECOSOC - RESTRUCTURING
TAGS: AORG, ECOSOC, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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